

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A medical device comprising an elongate portion of plastics material, the portion being extruded with at least a first, inner layer of a plastics material and a second layer of a plastics material on an outside of the inner layer, wherein one of said layers is substantially free of gas bubbles, ~~and~~ wherein the other of said layers includes gas bubbles dispersed within it the material of said other layer to increase the visibility of the device under ultrasound imaging, and wherein said layer substantially free of gas bubbles is thinner than said other layer.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Original) A device according to Claim 1, wherein said layer substantially free of gas bubbles is said inner layer
4. (Original) A device according to Claim 1, wherein said second layer provides an outer surface of the device.
5. (Original) A device according to Claim 1, including a third layer on an outside of said second layer.
6. (Original) A device according to Claim 5, wherein said second layer contains gas bubbles, and wherein said first and third layers are substantially free of gas bubbles.
7. (Original) A device according to Claim 1, wherein the bubbles are in a region extending around the entire circumference of the device.
8. (Original) A device according to Claim 1, wherein the bubbles extend in a continuous region along the length of the device.

9. (Original) A device according to Claim 1, wherein the gas bubbles have a size in the range 0.1 μ to 300 μ
10. (Original) A device according to Claim 9, wherein the gas bubbles have a size in the range 1 μ to 50 μ .
11. (Original) A device according to Claim 10, wherein the gas bubbles have a size in the range 5 μ to 10 μ .
12. (Original) A device according to Claim 1, wherein the gas bubbles are provided by gas-filled polymer microspheres.
13. (Original) A medical device according to Claim 1, wherein the device is a catheter having a bore extending along its length.
14. (Original) A catheter according to Claim 13, wherein said inner layer has an inner surface providing the bore of said catheter.
15. (Original) A catheter according to Claim 13, wherein said plastics material is transparent to the eye, and wherein the density of bubbles is such as to permit material within the catheter to be viewed by the eye.
16. (Currently amended) A catheter comprising an elongate shaft of plastics material, the shaft being extruded with an inner layer of a plastics material and an outer layer of a plastics material on an outside of the inner layer, wherein said inner layer is substantially free of gas bubbles, wherein said outer layer includes gas bubbles dispersed within it the plastics material of said outer layer to increase the visibility of the device under ultrasound imaging, and wherein said outer layer is thicker than said inner layer.

17. (Currently amended) An embryo transfer catheter comprising an elongate shaft of transparent plastics material, the shaft being extruded with an inner layer of a plastics material and an outer layer of a plastics material on an outside of the inner layer, wherein said inner layer is substantially free of gas bubbles, wherein said outer layer includes gas bubbles dispersed within it the plastics material of said outer layer to increase the visibility of the device under ultrasound imaging, wherein the density of bubbles is insufficient to prevent visualization of an embryo in the catheter, and wherein said outer layer is thicker than said inner layer.

18. (Currently amended) A catheter comprising an elongate shaft of plastics material, the shaft being extruded with three layers, ~~comprising each of a plastics material, wherein the shaft comprises~~ an inner layer, an outer layer and a middle layer between said inner and outer layers, wherein said inner and outer layers are substantially free of gas bubbles, wherein said middle layer includes gas bubbles dispersed within it the plastics material of said middle layer to increase the visibility of the device under ultrasound imaging, and wherein said inner and outer layers are thinner than said middle layer.